

INVENTORY SHEET FOR GROUP NOMINATIONS: IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOISE, IDAHO

NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho)

SITE NAME: Purdum Livery Stable

SITE NUMBER: 5

LOCATION: 113 North Rail Street East, Shoshone, ID 83352

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Pete Oneida
P.O. Box 45
Shoshone, ID 83352

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Shoshone, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Purdum Livery Stable and the property on which it stands, Lot 18 and the west 1/2 of lot 17, Original Plat D, Shoshone Townsite. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/711780/4756745

DATE OR PERIOD: 1907

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, exploration/settlement, commerce

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: fair, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The one-story Purdum Livery Stable is approximately 43 by 120 feet with its facade on the narrower dimension. It has a composition covered roof behind a false wooden front. At the front the roof appears to be a shallow gable roof with a rounded ridge line. At the rear it is even more rounded. Double, panelled centered wooden entrance doors are recessed in a wood panelled opening with angled sides. A panel above the recessed entrance is filled in with wooden siding. The stone wall on the facade is approximately 36 inches high. Columns of carefully fitted dressed stones with mortar tooled to produce beading in the joints flank the entrance and are at the corners of the facade. Double display windows with fixed panes flank the entrance. A double panel of mezzanine windows with approximately 80 small opaque purple glass panes are above the display windows. The facade above the windows is covered with rusty and deteriorated decorative metal siding with a decorative cornice. The stone parts of the facade and a panel approximately ten by twelve feet at the extreme right hand side of the left wall have been painted white at one time, but the paint is now faded revealing the original stonework. Offset to the right of the left wall is a single wooden door with a wooden lintel above it that has been boarded up. There are no opening on the right wall. The rear stone wall is approximately 48 inches high with a wide, double centered wooden door with a wooden lintel. Masonry on the side and rear walls is of smaller stones than on the facade. The mortar in the joints on the side and rear walls is untooled.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Purdum Livery Stable is significant as an example of commercial architecture, and because of the commercial role it played in settlement and development in the area of the nomination. It was built in 1907 for George and Jessie Purdum. News stories refer to it as the Purdum barn, but it is clear that it was built to function as a livery stable. "The new Purdum barn which has just been completed is one of the largest and most comfortable in southern Idaho. It has 240 feet of stall room with ample carriage shed and corral room for a very large trade." (Shoshone Journal, November 15, 1907) Very little accomodation for its function is revealed in its design, which is a horizontal version of similar business buildings housing stores on North Rail and South Rail streets in Shoshone. At the time this building was built a large freighting business operated from Shoshone to Shoshone Falls Ferry to Twin Falls, to Milner, the canal building headquarters town, and to the irrigation project construction camps in the area of the thematic group. Throughout 1907, the local newspaper reported shortages of accomodations in Shoshone for both man and beast, and promoted the development of more commercial establishments in Shoshone, predicting a business boom. For a few years, the Purdum barn probably flourished, but when railroads came to South Central Idaho across the new irrigated tracts and the major construction work on the irrigation projects was completed, the town of Milner waned. In 1920 the building was taken over by brothers Charles, Tom, and Frank Pethick and was used as an automobile sales office. The building was used from time to time as an automobile repair shop from the mid-1950's until about 1970. It is currently vacant. The painting of the stone on the facade and of an advertising panel on the side is historical treatment. The building retains most of its original appearance as an important early commercial building on Shoshone's main street.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

The Shoshone Journal, November 15, 1907.

Records of the Security Title Company, Inc., Gooding, ID.

Pethick, C. M., interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Shoshone, Idaho, July 16, 1979.

T. V. Struck, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Shoshone, Idaho, July 16, 1979.